

**RETI PHASE 2A DRAFT REPORT-
CONCEPTUAL TRANSMISSION PLAN
ITS PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS
AND
THE MANY NEXT STEPS**

Billie Blanchard
California Public Utilities Commission
bcb@cpuc.ca.gov

The Phase 2A Report's primary function was limited to the development of a conceptual transmission plan for accessing potential resources. Besides additional RETI work, there are many steps beyond this plan to the construction of a transmission project:

- Detailed studies by ISO or POUs with development of routing and alternatives**
- Project specific permitting and environmental review**
- Additional environmental permitting and final engineering**
- Construction and mitigation compliance**

WHAT DOES THE PLAN DO?

- ☑ Based on RETI mandate identifies additional transmission capacity to access and deliver renewable energy to meet state goals in 2020
- ☑ Evaluates relative value of potential lines for accessing and delivering renewable energy
- ☑ Identifies potential transmission network lines for further detailed study by CAISO or POU

WHAT DOES THE PLAN DO?

- ☒ **Located most conceptual lines in existing rights of way and/or designated utility corridors**
- ☒ **Provides high level of environmental screening**

THE PLAN DOES NOT:

- ✗ Include precise routing of lines**
- ✗ Preclude study of other areas with renewable potential**
- ✗ Provide a determination of need or information about power flows, congestion, or reliability**
- ✗ Determine ability of existing system to accommodate flows of new renewable generation**
- ✗ Provide any required environmental impact assessment for a specific project or its approval**

NEXT STEPS

1. FUTURE RETI WORK

- **Finalize Phase 2A report**
 - **Prioritize and reduce number of line segments**
 - **Eliminate redundant lines**
- **Adjust plan as necessary with results of Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) due the end of 2010**
- **Identify short term measures to get renewables on grid in next few years**
- **Support Phase 3 studies recommended at CAISO and POU's**

2. CAISO/POU STUDIES

- Submit proposed projects for detailed study to the CAISO or POU transmission planners
- Prepare plans of service
- ✓ Conduct power flow analysis to determine whether project is needed and can be added to grid without compromising system reliability
- ✓ Use production cost models to evaluate how proposal affects cost of power to generators and consumers across entire grid and affect fuel consumption and emissions

- **Projects showing net benefits and maintain or enhance system reliability presented to POU governing boards or CAISO Board of Directors for approval**

3. PERMITTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- **Regulated utilities file CPCN or PTC application with CPUC along with PEA or Proponent's Environmental Assessment**
- **Environmental Review is conducted requiring preparation of EIR or joint EIR/EIS with public review and participation requirements**

- In parallel process a general proceeding on need and cost is conducted by ALJ and Assigned Commissioner with prehearing conferences, evidentiary hearings, and preparation of testimony
 - CPUC must vote yes or no on project or an alternative; and if applicable a Record of Decision (ROD) with a federal co-lead agency such as USFS and/or BLM may also be required for approval
-
- **NOTE: POU's would have to follow a similar environmental review and public process**

4. A PROJECT APPROVAL IS PRECEDED BY MORE PERMITTING AND CONSTRUCTION AND MITIGATION COMPLIANCE

- **Additional permits required from USFWS, ACOE, DFG, and other responsible agencies such as air districts, RWQCBs, CALTRANS etc.**
- **Further Native American consultation that started at application filing**
- **Final engineering and any land acquisition**
- **Construction and mitigation measure monitoring and compliance**

THANK YOU